for the imports during the said financial year has worked out to Rs. 2288 per tonne. The quantity of imported sugar which has arrived upto 19.7.85 during the current financial year 1985-86 is about 2.39 lakh tonnes and the approximate average C&F price is about Rs. 2000 per tonne.

Inclusion of the Representatives of Indian Languages Newspapers Association in the Wage Board for Journalists and Non-Journalists

401. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation with regard to the inclusion of the representatives of the Indian Languages Newspapers Association in the proposed wage board for working journalists and non-journalists;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian Languages Newspapers Association was represented on the first and second wage board;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this time their inclusion in the wage board has not been considered and if so, what are reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the question of inclusion of representative of newspaper industry was referred to R.N.I., P.I.B. and S.T.C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) and (d) A representative of the Indian Languages Newspaper Association has been nominated on both the Wage Boards set up for Working Journalists and the non-journalist employees of Newspaper Industry.

Import of Foreign Films by N.F.D.C.

402. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Film Development Corporation is engaged in importing films; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The number of films imported by the National Film Development Corporation upto 31st March, 1985 (financial year-wise), since its inception is given below:—

Financial Year	No. of Films imported
1980-81	45
1981-82	54
1982-83	26
1983-84	27
1984-85	29

Shortage of Godowns for Storing of Foodgrains

403. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of godowns for storing of the foodgrains with the Food Corporation of India resulting in more than seventy lakh tonnes of wheat lying in the open;

(b) whether any steps are being taken by Government to save foodgrains from being spoilt in rains; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) As on 31-5-85, 23.94 lakh

tonnes of foodgrains were held by the Food Corporation of India in open storage due to lack of adequate covered storage capacity.

(b) and (c) Food Corporation of India has taken the following steps in order to protect its stocks in open storage from rains:—

(i) stocks are stored under cover-and-plinth (CAP) arrangement with proper drainage and dunnage;

(ii) stocks are covered with polythene covers and lashed with nylon ropes;

(iii) aeration of stocks in the open is undertaken during clear weather to maintain the health of grains; and

(iv) periodic inspection is undertaken to control insect infestation, damage by rodents, birds etc.

Procurement of Wheat

404. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that procurement of wheat by Government from farmers continues till middle of June every year whereas the purchasing was stopped about 15—20 days earlier this year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the procurement price of wheat in Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh had thus dropped drastically from Rs. 157 to Rs. 145 per quintal resulting in great loss to the farmers;

(d) whether Government propose to enquire into the reasons for which procurement of wheat by the Government of India had stopped 20 days earlier; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a), (b), (d) and (e). The Rabi Marketing Season is from the first of April to the end of March, during which wheat procurement takes place. In the current season, procurement of wheat under price support is still continuing.

(c) The procurement/support price of 'Fair Average Quality' wheat, which is uniform throughout the country, has been Rs. 157 per quintal since the commencement of the current season, and farmers are free to sell their wheat to the procuring agencies at that price.

Central Assistance for drought in States

405. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that serious drought situation is prevailing in various States in the country due to the failure of rains during the period from April 1985 to June 1985;

(b) what is the estimated loss of the crops which have been destroyed/damaged as a result thereof; and

(c) whether the Central Government have provided any relief to the drought affected States and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra reported drought conditions during the period April to June, 1985.

(b) According to the Governments of the above States, 105.48 lakh hectares of cropped area have been affected in varying degrees due to drought conditions in these States.

(c) A ceiling of Central assistance of Rs. 181.71 crores has been sanctioned to these states except Himachal Pradesh. The report of central team on drought in Himachal Pradesh is being processed.